

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property HAMILTON, MARTIN, HOUSE

historic name: Hamilton, Martin, House
other name/site number: Hamilton House Museum

2. Location

street & number: State Route 39 not for publication: N/A
city/town: Summersville vicinity: N/A
state: WV county: Nicholas code: 067 zip code: 26651

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally.

Susan M. Pierce 10/7/99
Signature of Certifying Official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of Certifying Official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

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4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

_____ entered in the National Register

_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined eligible for the
National Register

_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined not eligible for the
National Register

_____ removed from the National Register

_____ other (explain): _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:

(Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private

_____ public-local

_____ public-State

_____ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

☒ building(s)

_____ district

_____ site

_____ structure

_____ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

_____ 1 _____ buildings

_____ sites

_____ structures

_____ objects

_____ 1 _____ 0 _____ TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE:
Agricultural Fields
Agricultural Outbuildings

Current Functions

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

VERNACULAR

Materials

Foundation	<u>Brick Piers</u>
Walls	<u>Clapboard</u>
Roof	<u>Metal</u>
Other	_____

Narrative Description

(See continuation on sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

 x **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

 B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

 x **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

 D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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Architectural Description

The Hamilton House is an 1893 farmhouse situated in the hills of Nicholas County. The property sits on the north side of State Route 39 approximately 75 yards from the roadway. Peters Creek parallels the roadway and there is a small parking area off SR 39. A small dirt lane leads to the house and the rental property immediately behind the home. The rental property is not within the property boundaries. Flagstones lead from the lane to the porch steps. Trees surround the property.

The simple one-story home remains unaltered since 1936 when an eight foot addition was added to the east end. The house has original clapboard siding and a corrugated metal roof with intersecting gables. Resting on stone and brick piers, lattice work covers the crawl space across the front facade. The side foundation, however, is stone while the rear of the house is built against the hillside with a low stone foundation.

The front, or south facade, has an off center gable end and a centered porch with a shed roof. The porch rail has a unique wood cut-out design with four support posts. There are two doors on the porch, both with four panels, and a 6/6 double-hung wood sash window between the doors. All other windows on the house are the same with the exception of a pair of windows on the east gable end, which are 2/2 double-hung sash. There is a small off-centered brick chimney for the parlor fireplace.

The rear of the house also has an off center gable end. To the left of this is a small recessed porch with a window. There are two doors on the side walls of the porch. One, with two panels, leads to a storage room. The other, a plank door, leads into the kitchen.

The interior, like the outside of the house, has very simple woodwork. The walls are covered with plaster in three of the rooms, but in the kitchen and parlor are the original plank walls. Also in the parlor is a plank closet door situated next to a fireplace. With a hearth of stone and lined with brick, the fireplace has a simple decorative wooden mantle.

Each room has original wood floors with exception of the east bedroom (archive room) which was replaced in 1936 when the addition was added. This addition expanded the room by eight feet to create a larger bedroom. The front bedroom window was moved to be centered on the front facade. The trim in this room is also more elaborate than the rest of the house with a simple projecting molding over the doors and windows.

Summary:

The Hamilton House is a simple farmhouse typical of other farmhouses in Nicholas County. It has the original wooden siding and windows and the interior has wooden floors, plank walls, and paneled doors.

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Statement of Significance

The Hamilton House is significant under Criterion A for Agriculture and its association with the rural agricultural subsistence farm prevalent in Nicholas County during the period of 1893-1936. Previous historic resource surveys in the county (1985-1997) have identified other agricultural related sites, but none this closely related to Summersville, the County Seat. The house is also significant under Criteria C for Architecture, and is typical of small farmhouses in Nicholas County.

Martin Hamilton built the house after coming to the area during the Civil War conflict. He was born 18 October 1856 at Fincastle, Botetourt County, VA to James Robert and Eleanor V. Hamilton who had seven other children. The family left Virginia when Martin was a small boy, traveling by wagon with his father's cousin, Archibald Kessler, his wife, Anna Peck, and two slaves. They purchased property in the Summersville area of Nicholas County where James Hamilton became owner of a general store.

In 1880, Martin married Hannah Remely and lived near his parents, farming the land and working in his father's store. In 1893 they purchased 63.4 acres of land west of Summersville and built a home for their family of six children. This building was a modest one story cottage of four rooms. The Hamilton's youngest child, Mary Gladys, was born there in 1903. When the farm buildings were completed, there was a large barn on the knoll behind the house and a large apple orchard surrounding it. Behind the house was a coal house, a granary and a chicken house. In the bottom land near the road there was a two- story barn with a hay loft for cattle and horses. A garden was also located in this area. The home faced the former Weston to Gauley Bridge Turnpike, which was still a main road through Nicholas County in the late 19th century.

The architecture of the home is typical of other farmhouses in Nicholas County. It is simple in design and materials, constructed of exterior wood siding and using wood for some of the interior walls. Although the home was enlarged by eight feet on one side, the change in the front windows balanced the home. The porch on the front is well proportioned and features the cutout railing typical in rural West Virginia. The rear porch off the kitchen provides shelter and is nestled between two rooms.

Typical of the Nicholas County farm family of the time, the six Hamilton children grew up sharing responsibility and learning to work. They assisted with such chores as feeding livestock and poultry, milking cows, planting, harvesting and preserving fruits and vegetables, hoeing corn and hauling hay shocks with horses. They all received a good education, starting at the one-room Thornton School west of their home. They became professional people and useful citizens/living mainly in the Summersville area of Nicholas County. Hannah Hamilton was privileged to a good education and she inspired her children to higher learning to support and educate the family. Martin Hamilton supplemented their income by delivering mail from Summersville to Gauley Bridge which at that time was a two-day journey. He traveled in a horse-

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drawn hack and stopped at guest houses along the Weston - Gauley Bridge Turnpike.

Hannah Hamilton died in 1915 and Martin remained at home with four children in his care. Daughter Albina resigned a teaching position to be home with the family, caring for her father until his death in 1927. Albina remained on the farm until 1935. Sister, Gladys Hamilton Means had obtained a 3/6 interest in the farm and moved back with her husband Bill who worked in Summersville. Timber was allowed to grow on most of the acreage and was harvested in the 1960s. When Gladys died in 1980, the property was left to the Hamilton heirs who donated the house to the Nicholas County Historical and Genealogical Society in 1985. Family members still retain the land associated with the farm. Renovations were made to the home within two years for use as a museum and genealogical library.

Agriculture

When Martin Hamilton started farming on 68 acres of land in 1893, Nicholas County was about 50% cleared land and had a population of approximately 10,000. A large majority of the population was engaged in farming and cultural pursuits. Principal crops were: corn, wheat, hay oats, potatoes, buck wheat, tobacco and rye with most family farms producing apples and other fruits. The 1898 *Agriculture Report* lists the following livestock in order of importance: horses, cattle, sheep and hogs. Poultry and poultry products were a growing industry and chickens were grown on almost every family farm. The Hamilton's raised chickens and turkeys, with both producing eggs. It is not known if they sold them locally, but the fowl were used for home consumption.

By 1920, 35% of the county was used for farm land. There were 4,009 farms averaging 92 acres each. The population had reached 20,717. The 1930 census shows a decrease in farms, with 3,985 and more farmers were becoming part-time farmers as they found employment in the timber and coal industries. Timbering, the first to develop, now employed 14,105 and coal mining employed 19,299. By 1999, Nicholas County farms have decreased to about 500 and subsistence farming is a rarity. During the most significant period for the Hamilton House (1893-1927) agriculture was the most important occupation in Nicholas County.

Summary

The Hamilton farm with garden and farm crops, livestock and poultry was typical of the type of subsistence farming that once was instrumental in the settlement and development of Nicholas County. The Hamilton house represents an important period in Nicholas County history. Now owned and operated by an active organization and dedicated to the preservation of Nicholas County heritage, the museum houses collections reflecting the life of the average Nicholas County farm family at the turn of the century.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other

Name of Repository: Nicholas County Historic Landmarks Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References

17 512220 4237495
Zone Easting Northing

Summersville Quad Map

Verbal Boundary Description

(See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(See continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Erin Pogany and Katherine Jourdan
with Wilma Richardson, Nicholas County HLC

Organization: WV SHPO

Date: July 1999

Street & Number: 1900 Kanawha Blvd East

Telephone: 304/558-0220

City or Town: Charleston

State: WV

Zip: 25305-0300

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Nicholas County Historical and Genealogical Society

Street & Number: Turnpike Road (Route 39)

Telephone: (304) 872-1096

City or Town: Summersville

State: WV

Zip: 26651

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Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Agriculture

Architecture

Period of Significance

1893-1927

Significant Dates

1893

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheets.)

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Bibliography

- Brown, William G., "History of Nicholas County." The News Leader (Richwood), 1981.
- Campbell, Col. Edward. "History of Nicholas County," The Nicholas Chronicle, 1912.
- Grose, Shirley, and Associates. Nicholas County, West Virginia (Summersville), 1985.
- Comstock, Jim. West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia (Richwood), 1974 ed.
- 1920 Agriculture Census of Nicholas County. Charleston, WV.
- 1930 Agriculture Census of Nicholas County. Charleston, WV.
- Fourth Biennial Report Board of Agriculture of West Virginia. Charleston, WV. 1897-98.
- "Agriculture in Nicholas County." NCHGS Museum Manuscript. 1997.
- Edwards, Louise. "The Martin Luther Hamilton Family." Manuscript not published, 1998.
- Mearns, Frederick. "The Hamilton House." Manuscript not published, 1998.
- "Populations of Counties." West Virginia Blue Book. 1890-1940.
- Deeds Books, Nicholas County Courthouse, Summersville, WV.

Interviews:

- Interview with Fred Williams, USDA Farm Service Agent, by Wilma Richardson.
- Interview with Anna Mae Rader, historian, by Wilma Richardson.
- Interview with Mary Lunter, historian, by Wilma Richardson.
- Interview with Louise Edwards, Martin and Hannah Hamilton's granddaughter, by Wilma Richardson.
- Interview with Frederick Mearns, Martin and Hannah Hamilton's grandson, by Wilma Richardson.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The attached survey plat of Tax Map 22, Part of parcel 11, serves as the verbal boundary. Taken from Deed Book 318, page 300.

Boundary Justification

The small parcel represents the portion of the farm purchased by the Nicholas County Historical Society. The noncontributing rental property is outside of the boundaries.

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Section number Photo Page 1

Name of Property: Hamilton, Martin, House
Address Turnpike Road, State Road 39
Town Summersville, WV
County Nicholas County

Photographer: Jurgen Lorenzen, Nicholas Photography, Summersville

Date: March 1999

Negatives: Nicholas Photography, Summersville

Photo 1 of 12 Front or South Facade
Camera facing North

Photo 2 of 12 West and South Facade
Camera facing Northeast

Photo 3 of 12 North and East Facade
Camera facing Southwest

Photo 4 of 12 North and West Facade
Camera facing Southeast

Photo 5 of 12 Front Facade Porch
Camera facing East

Photo 6 of 12 Rear Facade Porch
Camera facing South

Photo 7 of 12 Interior, Parlor
Camera facing East

Photo 8 of 12 Interior, Parlor
Camera facing Northwest

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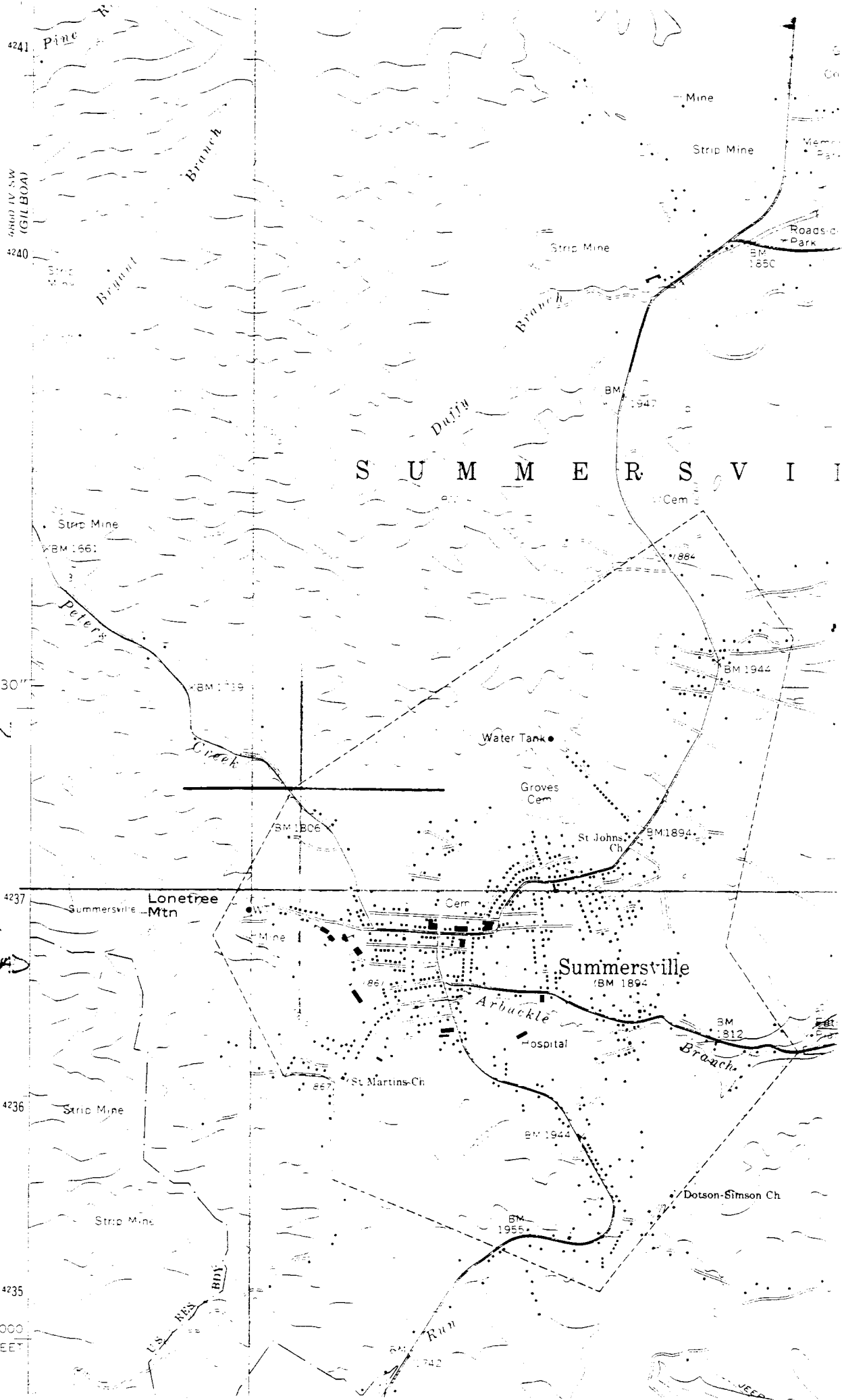
Section number Photo Page 2

Photo 9 of 12 Interior, Kitchen
Camera facing West

Photo 10 of 12 Interior, Dining Room
Camera facing West

Photo 11 of 12 Interior, Dining Room
Camera facing East

Photo 12 of 12 Interior, West Bedroom
Camera facing West



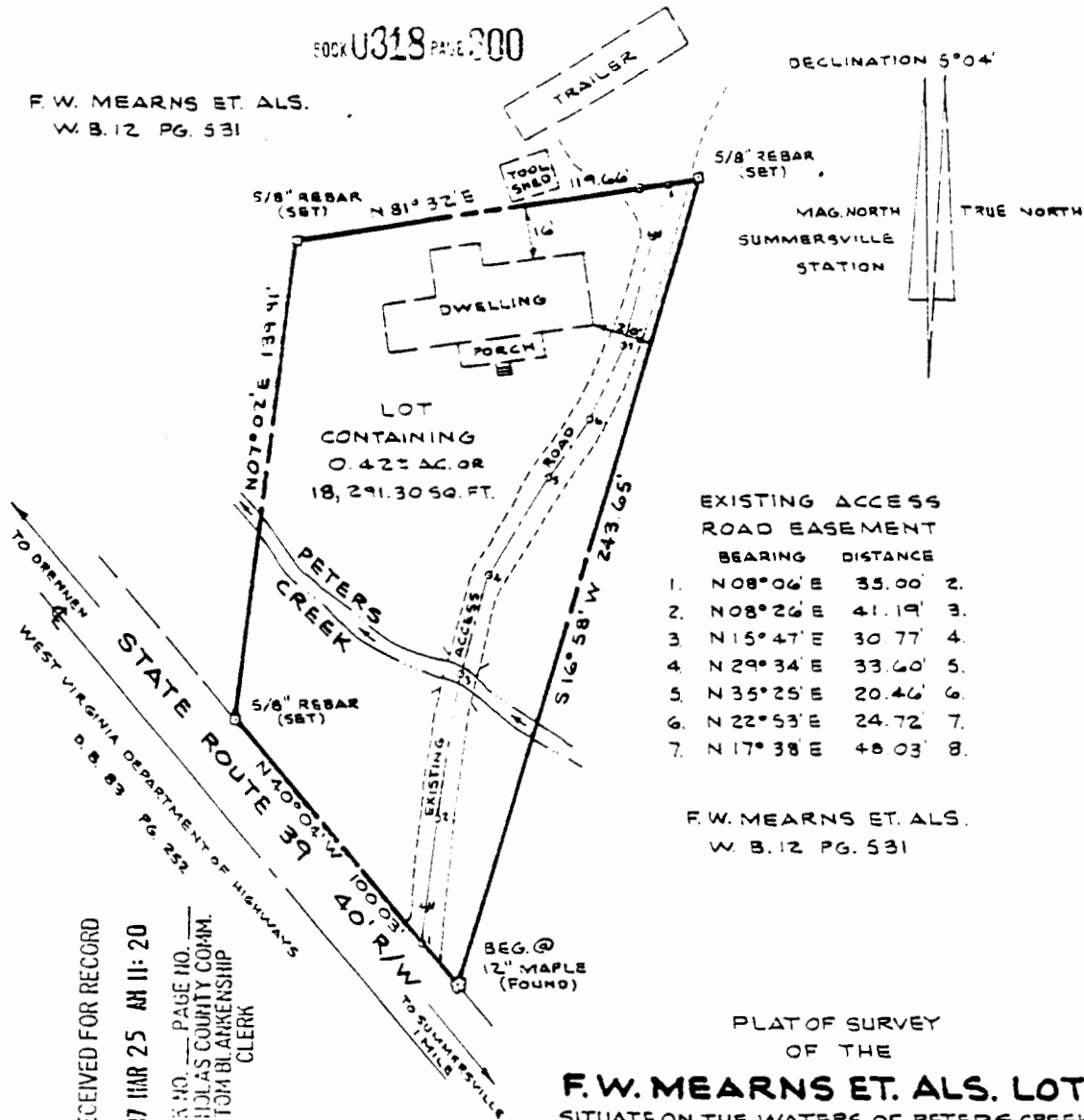
MARTIN HAMILTON
HOUSE

17 512220

4237495

SUMMERSVILLE CVD

F.W. MEARNES ET. ALS.
W.B. 12 PG. 531



RECEIVED FOR RECORD

1987 MAR 25 AM 11:20

BOOK NO. — PAGE NO. —
NICHOLAS COUNTY COMM.
TOM BLANKENSHIP
CLERK

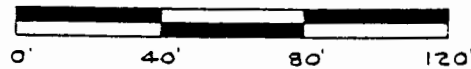


Surveyed By:
ACORD SURVEYING, INC.
818 Church Street
Summersville W. Va. 26651
Phone (304) 872-1464

PLAT OF SURVEY
OF THE

F.W. MEARNES ET. ALS. LOT
SITUATE ON THE WATERS OF PETERS CREEK
NEAR THE TOWN OF SUMMERSVILLE
SUMMERSVILLE DISTRICT NICHOLAS COUNTY
WEST VIRGINIA

FEBRUARY 11, 1987 SCALE: 1"=40'



TAX MAP 22
PART OF PARCEL 11

This Survey is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and complies with all West Virginia land survey laws, rules, and regulations. vol. 12 pg. 43

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, Nicholas County

Commission Clerk's Office March 25, 1987

The foregoing Map together with the certificate of its acknowledgment, was this day presented in said office and admitted to record.

Teste: Tom Blankenship Clerk

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Martin Hamilton House
Summersville, Nicholas County
West Virginia

